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Third Committee

Summary record of the 56th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 11 July 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Groux (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Switzerland)

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In the absence of Mr. Kuchinsky (Ukraine), Ms. Groux (Switzerland) Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.21 a.m.

Election of officers for the sixtieth session of the General Assembly

1. **The Chairperson** recalled that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, officers were to be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence. At its 55th meeting, on 13 June, the Committee had postponed the election of its Rapporteur until such time as a candidate had been identified by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. She had been informed that that candidate was Mr. Pedro Cardoso of Brazil.

2. *Mr. Cardoso (Brazil) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

3. **The Chairperson** said that, further to the Bureau elections conducted on 13 June, she had been advised that Ms. Rania Al Haj Ali of the Syrian Arab Republic would be unable to assume her duties as Vice-Chairperson for the sixtieth session of the General Assembly. In accordance with rule 105 of the rules of procedure, the Committee was required to elect another candidate from the Group of Asian States. She had been advised that the Group of Asian States had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Muhammad Anshor of Indonesia to fill the vacated position.

4. *Mr. Anshor (Indonesia) was elected Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.*

5. **Ms. Rivero** (Uruguay), speaking as Chairperson of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, drew attention to General Assembly resolutions 58/126 and 58/316 on the revitalization of the work of the Assembly, which provided both for the pre-session election of officers of the Main Committees and the exploration of ways to improve the working methods of the General Assembly.

6. Whereas in the Third Committee the responsibilities of Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs were distributed on the basis of the dates on which the Secretariat received notification of the candidates endorsed by the regional groupings, the practice in the other Main Committees hinged on the principle of rotation. An undesirable consequence of the arrangement in the Third Committee was that some regional groupings had rarely performed the functions of Rapporteur. Candidates from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had performed that duty during the fifty-ninth session and would be doing so again during the sixtieth session simply because it had submitted its endorsement after candidates from the other three groupings had been elected Vice-Chairpersons. Accordingly, the Group would like the Secretariat to submit to the Third Committee, within the shortest time possible, a proposal based on the principle of rotation that could be put into effect at the sixtieth session.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.